

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

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" 3 OCT 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR : Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Improved High Altitude Photography of Cuba

1. This memorandum is for the information of the Director of Central Intelligence.

2. The C triple prime ITEK camera Number 51 was modified for installation in U-2 aircraft Number 352, which is assigned to Lockheed Aircraft Corporation as a test bed for the IDEALIST Program. Three confirming test flights have demonstrated a ground resolution from operating altitude of better than one foot, a lateral coverage of seventeen miles, with a range of 1,100 linear miles of coverage. The camera, equipment bay hatch, cockpit controls and installation bracketry are all currently in place at Burbank and supplies of suitable film (SO-132) are available at [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] You will recall having seen samples of this coverage within the past week.

3. We are now planning to install the C triple prime camera referred to above in one of the Agency U-2 aircraft currently on loan to SAC. This installation will be accomplished at Edwards Air Force Base on one of the loan aircraft when it is returned from SAC for its periodic inspection. The Agency Detachment at Edwards is furnishing maintenance backup support to SAC for the Cuba coverage. Anticipated cost for installation and technical support should not exceed [REDACTED] for a ten-day effort, including deployment to Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, from which point a mission against Cuba would be mounted.

4. We are coordinating this installation through D/NRO with SAC and the JRC. In the event the proposed Cuba mission confirms operational suitability of the C triple prime camera, we shall be considering two follow-up actions for which supplemental FY 1964 funds would be required from the NRO:

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a. Procurement of a limited number of single cameras similar to the prototype Number 51 for employment against other high priority targets.

b. Development of a dual camera installation for the U-2 having the following characteristics which appear at present within the state of the art:

- (1) Lateral coverage 17 nautical miles.
- (2) Range 4,000 nautical miles.
- (3) Ground resolution 10".
- (4) Convergent stereo 20° to 30°.
- (5) Retain interchangeability capability for use of B type cameras.

14/  
ALBERT D. WHEELON  
Deputy Director  
(Science and Technology)

cc: D/NRO

Signature Recommended:

[Redacted Signature]

**JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.**  
Acting Assistant Director  
(Special Activities)

**Distribution:**

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DD/OSA: [Redacted] (27 September 1963)

Rewritten: AAD/OSA: JACunningham, Jr. [Redacted] (2 October 63)

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OFFICE OF SPECIAL ACTIVITIESRECAPITULATION OF AIR ACTIVITIES, WEEK ENDING 18 SEPTEMBER 63

PROJECT	VEHICLE	DATE	TARGET COUNTRY	BY	APPROVED	DATE	ACTION	
IDEALIST/ TACKLE								25X1
4 Missions	U-2	SEPTEMBER	China Mainland	Special Gp		29 Aug	Weather conditions have not been suitable for high altitude photo reconnaissance during this period.	
1 Mission	U-2	SEPTEMBER	North Korea	Special Gp		29 Aug	Mission [ ] alerted against this requirement. Scheduled for [ ] take-off.	
IDEALIST/ LOW NOTE								
2 Missions	U-2	SEPTEMBER	Laos/North Vietnam	Special Gp		5 Sep	Monsoon weather conditions have continued to preclude photo reconnaissance of this area.	
1 Mission	U-2	SEPTEMBER	South Laos	Special Gp		29 Aug		25X1

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OFFICE OF SPECIAL ACTIVITIESRECAPITULATION OF AIR ACTIVITIES, WEEK ENDING 18 September 63

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PROJECT VEHICLE DATE TARGET COUNTRY BY APPROVED DATE ACTION

No activity during this period.

cc: DCI  
ER  
DD/S&T  
DD/P  
DD/I  
SA/DD/S&T

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#15 - [REDACTED]

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